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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02
INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 SAM-01 IO-10 /090 W
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R 1215332 APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3314
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS CAIRO 3716

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG
SUBJECT: KUWAIT NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS SADAT

SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI NEWSPAPER, PRES. SADAT BLASTS QADHAFI, MENTIONS THAT WEST IS PROVING TO BE GREATER SUPPORTER OF EGYPTIAN POLITICAL POSITION THAN SOME ARABS, AND ADDS THAT WHILE ARAB FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT HAS BEEN MOST LAUDABLE, STILL MORE IS NEEDED. HE MAKES NO COMMENT ON REASON FOR PONMIN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, NOTING THAT RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION ARE NOT THE BEST. DECISION ON CANAL REOPENING IS EVIDENCE OF EGYPTIAN FREE WILL, REMARKING THAT IT IS NOT IN US STRATEGIC INTEREST BECAUSE IT FACILITATES

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 121533Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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TRANSIT OF SOVIET NAVY.

1. CAIRO PRESS APRIL 12 FRONTPAGES PRES. SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH EDITOR OF KUWAIT NEWSPAPER "AL SIYASSA". LENGTHY INTERVIEW COVERED SEVERAL TOPICS OF WHICH HIGHLIGHTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.

2. LIBYAN ANTI-EGYPT CAMPAIGN: IT IS INSPIRED BY QADHAAFI "WHO IS 100 0/0 SICK; AND DEVIL HAS SEIZED HIM. HE OFFERED TO PAY EGYPT ONE BILLION POUNDS STERLING IF EGYPT WOULD SEVER RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, QATAR AND ABU DHABI".

3. RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION: THEY ARE NOT WHAT SADAT WISHES THEM TO BE; HOWEVER, RECENT MESSAGE FROM SOVIET LEADERS WAS "CORDIAL". FONMIN FAHMY WILL LEAVE FOR MOSCOW APRIL 19. SADAT HAS REQUESTED "GRACE PERIOD" ON REPAYMENT OF SOVIET DEBT, BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED RESPONSE.

4. ARAB SOLIDARITY: SADAT IS PLEASED THAT ARABS HAVE NOT BEEN EMBROILED IN DISPUTES OVER STRATEGY, BUT NOTES THAT "IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT WESTERNERS ARE MORE FAIR THAN OUR ARAB BROTHERS REGARDING EGYPT'S POSITION". HE LISTS TWO PRINCIPLES: NOT TO SURRENDER AN INCH OF ARAB TERRITORY AND NOT TO BARGAIN OVER TIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AS EVIDENCE FOR EXISTENCE OF "EXCELLENT SOLIDARITY", SADAT REVEALED THAT ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, UNBEMKNOWNST TO EGYPT, VISITED USSR DURING OCTOBER WAR TO PAY 200 MILLION DOLLARS FOR EQUIPMENT FOR SYRIA AND EGYPT. IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, UAE GAVE EGYPT 100 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH IT HAD HAD TO BORROW FROM BRITISH BANKS. "IN UTTER SILENCE," KUWAIT AND QATAR OFFERED "MUCH MONEY" DESPITE LIMITED RESOURCES. SADAT ADDED THAT HE NEVERTHELESS NEEDS MORE AID MONEY.

5. SUEZ CANAL: SADAT'S DECISION TO REOPEN CANAL IS EVIDENCE OF EGYPT'S "FREE WILL"; EGYPT SIDES WITH NEITHER EAST NOR WEST AND RECEIVES DIRECTIVES FROM NO ONE. CANAL REOPENING GOES AGAINST INTERESTS OF U.S., AS IT FACILITATES PRESENCE OF RUSSIANS IN INDIAN OCEAN.

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6. ARAB DISPUTES: FOLLOWING RESOLUTION OF IRAN/IRAQ DISPUTE, IRAQ/KUWAIT AND IRAQ/SYRIA DISPUTES MUST BE RESOLVED. SADAT WILL SEND MESSAGE TO IRAQI LEADER SADDAM HUSSEIN "IN THIS CONNECTION".

7. GENEVA CONFERENCE: SADAT DOES NOT EXPECT "QUICK RESULTS," BUT CONVENING OF CONFERENCE WILL AT LEAST "KEEP THE ISSUE WARM.....AND KEEP ISRAEL IN A TIGHT CORNER, EXPOSE HER MORE TO THE WORLD AND GAIN EVEN GREATER SUPPORT FOR ARABS."

8. U.S. PUBLIC OPINION: ARABS MUST GIVE UP DIATRIBES AND MUST INSTEAD MAKE THEIR POINT IN AN OBJECTIVE, CLEAR CUT MANNER TO AMEIRICAN PUBLIC. THEY MUST "CONFRONT" AMERICANS WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA. SADAT NOTES THAT SENATORS PERCY AND MCGOVERN, ONCE "VEHEMENT SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL" HAVE, THROUGH REASONING AND LOGIC, NOW TAKEN A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE.

9. COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FAHMY WILL GO TO MOSCOW AND SADAT'S ASCERBIC COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS ARE GIVEN VERY DELIBERATE LOW-KEY PRESS PLAY. NO COMMENTARY ACCOMPANIES ANNOUNCEMENT OF FONMIN'S TRAVEL PLANS, WHICH APPEARS ONLY IN SMALL BOX ON FRONT PAGES. FRONT PAGE SUMMARIES OF SADAT'S INTERVIEW SCARCELY MENTION SOVIET UNION IN SPITE OF FACT THAT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS IS PRESUMABLY IMPORTANT TOPIC IN THIS PRE-GENEVA PERIOD. IN ADDITION, GENERAL TONE OF PRESS TODAY REFLECTS GOE PLEASURE AND SELF CONFIDENCE THAT IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PLAY LARGE PART IN DETERMINING COURSE IN RECENT EVENTS.
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